Response to Radiation Emergencies and the Medical Reserve Corps

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WTF ??? WTF ???
What’s To Follow?

- Why worry about a radiation emergency?
- Why would MRC be involved?
- CDC's concept of how to address mass screening.
- Programs some states have developed to encourage MRC participation by radiation professionals.
Important!

This entire presentation and links to the materials mentioned are all available at:

http://mrcgem.com/rad
NIMBY ????
Not In My Back Yard?

- Nuclear plant nearby?
- Other facility with radioactive materials?
- Interstate highway?
- Railroad?
- Airport?
- Seaport?
- Stadium?
- Do you know???
Scenario?

- ~ 1,500 fatalities
- > 1 million people evacuated
- ~ 800,000 people displaced
- ~ 300,000 in evacuation centers
- ~ 100,000 people remained
- Civil unrest
- Health hazards
- Infrastructure failure
Public Health Functions After Any Disaster

- Rapid assessment of health and medical needs
- Sheltering and housing, mass care safety
- Injury and illness surveillance
- Potable water, safe food, sanitation and hygiene
- Vector control
Public Health Functions After Any Disaster

- Solid waste, waste water management
- Hazardous material disposal
- Registry
- Handling of the deceased
- Rumor control
- Public service announcements
Example: Planning for Public Shelters after an IND

Public shelter locations:
- 20 miles from Ground Zero
- 2000 miles from Ground Zero
- Places in between

Radiation screening staff and equipment:
- Adequate
- Less than adequate or none!
National Response Framework
Nuclear/Radiological Incident
Annex

Decontamination/Population Monitoring are:
“the responsibility of State, local, and tribal governments.”

www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/
Local Response

Plan to receive a large population:

- Potential for contamination
- Potential for injuries
- Some may need immediate medical care
- Most may need shelter/temporary housing
- All would be stressed
Local Response

- People need to be screened and triaged, preferably at locations other than area hospitals.
- Response and recovery from detection to site decontamination could extend for weeks, months, or years.
- Biomonitoring might be performed for years.
Our Local MRC Unit

- MRC GEM works with our local health departments, serving Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale counties.
- We are a *non-profit* corporation working closely with local health departments, emergency managers, and homeland security.
We serve a population of about 1 million.

- About 300 health department employees
- About 275 MRC GEM volunteers
Daniel Barnett et al of the Johns Hopkins Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center recently published a study "Gauging U.S. Emergency Medical Services workers' willingness to respond to pandemic influenza..."
Conclusions:

If the workers:
- understand the risks they face and how to protect themselves
- understand the important, vital, critical role they play in the response
they are far more likely to participate in a response effort.
In addition, when dealing with volunteers, it is important to keep them engaged. Otherwise, they’re likely to find some other activity that provides them with more positive feedback.
Dr. Armin Ansari

Health Physicist with CDC’s Radiation Studies Branch
vCRC & PFA Tools

First Responder Technologies Bulletin had a very nice article about the vCRC a few months ago.
(http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/FRArticle.aspx?AID=50)

Copies of both the vCRC software DVD and the Psychological First Aid in Radiation Disasters CD are available for you on your way out.
The Virtual Community Reception Center (vCRC) is a web-based training tool that provides an overview of the CRC process for planners, managers, and potential CRC staff. CRCs are locations where public health agencies and their partners perform population monitoring following a radiological or nuclear incident.

After completing this program, users should be able to:

- describe the process flow in a CRC
- identify the key stations in a CRC
- recognize essential services for each station in a CRC

The vCRC was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) to provide users with an orientation to CRC operations. For more information about population monitoring and community reception centers, please visit [http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation](http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation).
A Plan for Incorporating Local Volunteer Radiation Professionals into Existing Health Volunteer Programs to Assist in Population Monitoring

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

CRCPD funded five state and one local radiation control agencies to:

- Pilot process for recruiting, managing and training volunteer radiation professionals
- Promote volunteer registry of rad pros within existing registries and/or programs
- Develop plan for effective deployment and utilization of the trained volunteers within existing state/local emergency plans
- Develop an action plan for continued and expanded use of the program
While further development is ongoing, materials exist that can form the core of an effective local program:

- **Outline of Florida program at**
  http://www.myfloridaeh.com/radiation/Training.htm
- **Outline and PowerPoints of Kansas program at**
  http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/rrvc.htm
- **Ten additional awards are currently in process.**
References

http://www.crcpd.org/RDD.htm

Important Contact!

Know name and contact information for your state radiation control program director. This person is vital in both planning for and responding to a nuclear or radiological incident.

http://www.crcpd.org/Map/map.html
Questions?

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